

# Interlaken Workshop

on Decentralization in Forestry

## Findings from the Field Day Wednesday, 28 April, 2004



[www.intercooperation.ch](http://www.intercooperation.ch)



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### Excursion 1:

## Rugen-Mürren

From Government to  
Governance

Rapporteur: Jeff Sayer



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## Excursion 1: Rugen-Mürren

- Decentralisation of forest ownership and elite capture
- Local autonomy as a base for close to nature forest management
- Capacity building, local people and the forest service
- Incentives from urban regions and socio-economic change
- Cooperative Federalism: From Government to Governance
- Challenging adaptation to globalized conditions: From timber to services
- «Working Together Makes it Easier»: Solutions to contemporary problems



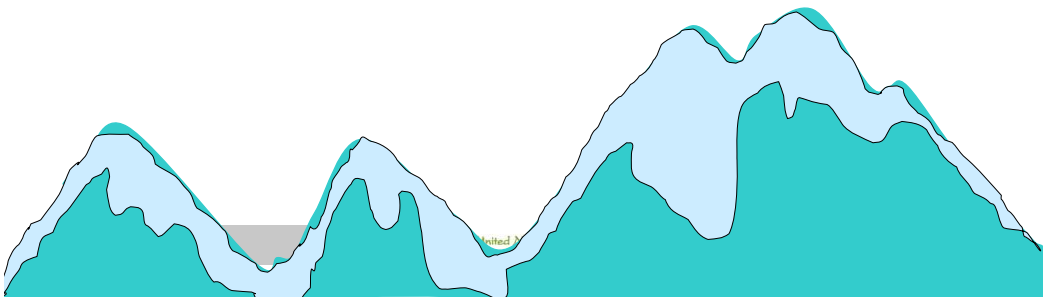
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Its really complicated:

And it takes decades



## Extra-sectoral influences:

Poverty/fuel wood: early 1800s

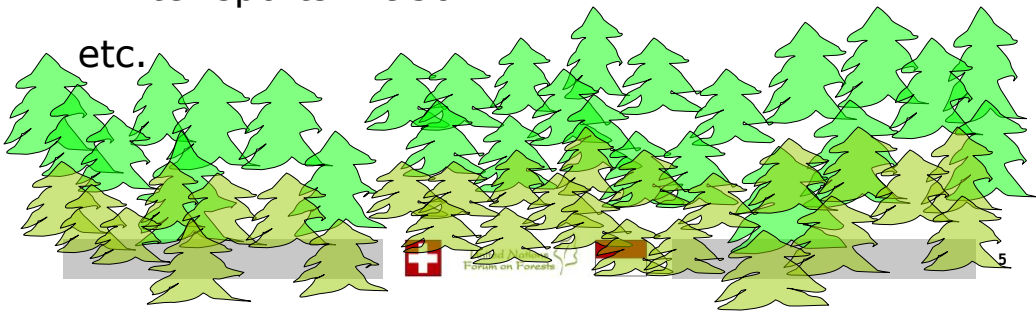
Economic expansion 1850 ++

Railways and coal: 1868

Oil economy: 1950 +

Winter sports: 1950 +

etc.

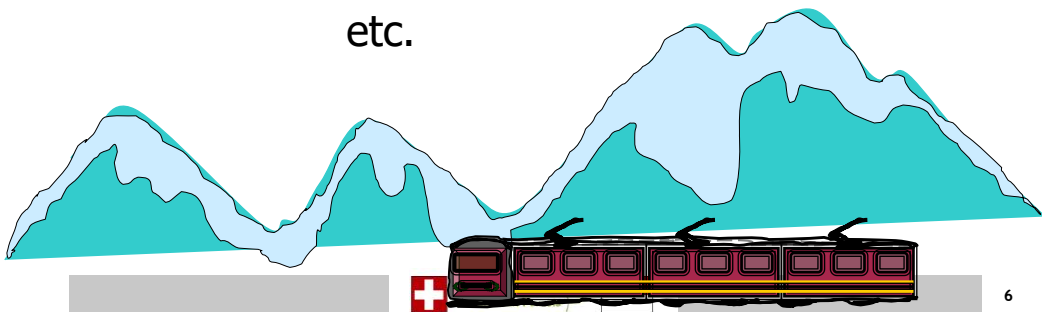


## Conflicts

Within communes

Communes and cantons

etc.

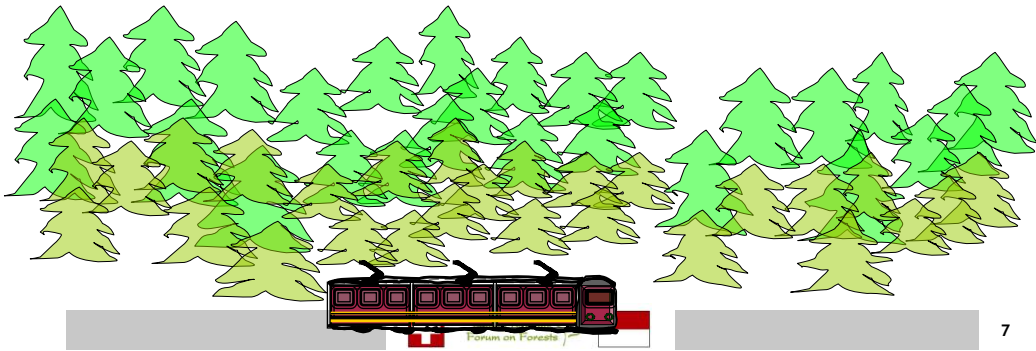


**Money:**

**At what level do the benefits accrue?**

**Who pays?**

**Cantonal and federal payments for environmental services**



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**No steady state:**

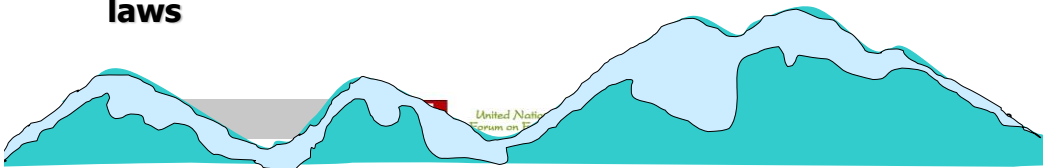
**Constant evolution and adaptation**

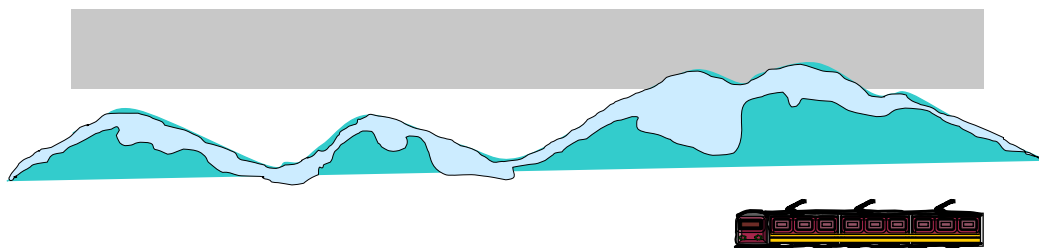
**"Solidarity"**

**"Social capital"**

**Culture and "soft laws"**

**Can never have enough "foresters" to enforce anti-social laws**

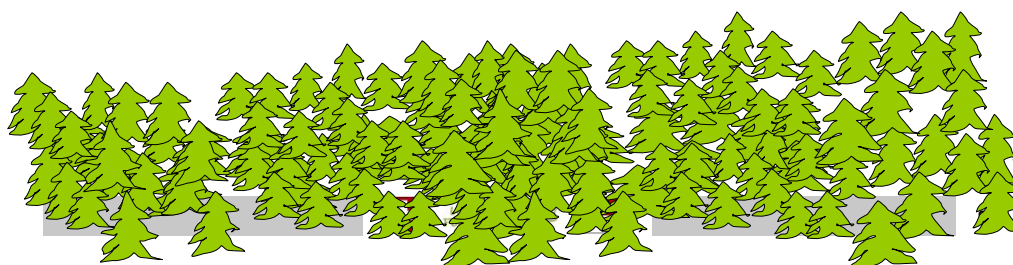




**Emerging issues!**

**Who pays for environmental services?**

**Landscape values - to whom do they accrue?**







## Excursion 2:

### Brienzen

Cooperative federalism  
to fight natural hazards



Rapporteur: Stewart Maginnis



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## Excursion 2: Brienzen

- Integral protection against natural hazards in the Canton of Berne (duties of the Confederation/of the Canton)
- Brienzen torrents (history, hazard, and damage potential; projects, responsibilities of the Confederation, Canton and Communes)
- The Brienzen torrents as seen by the people directly concerned



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## Main topics of the Excursions to Brienz

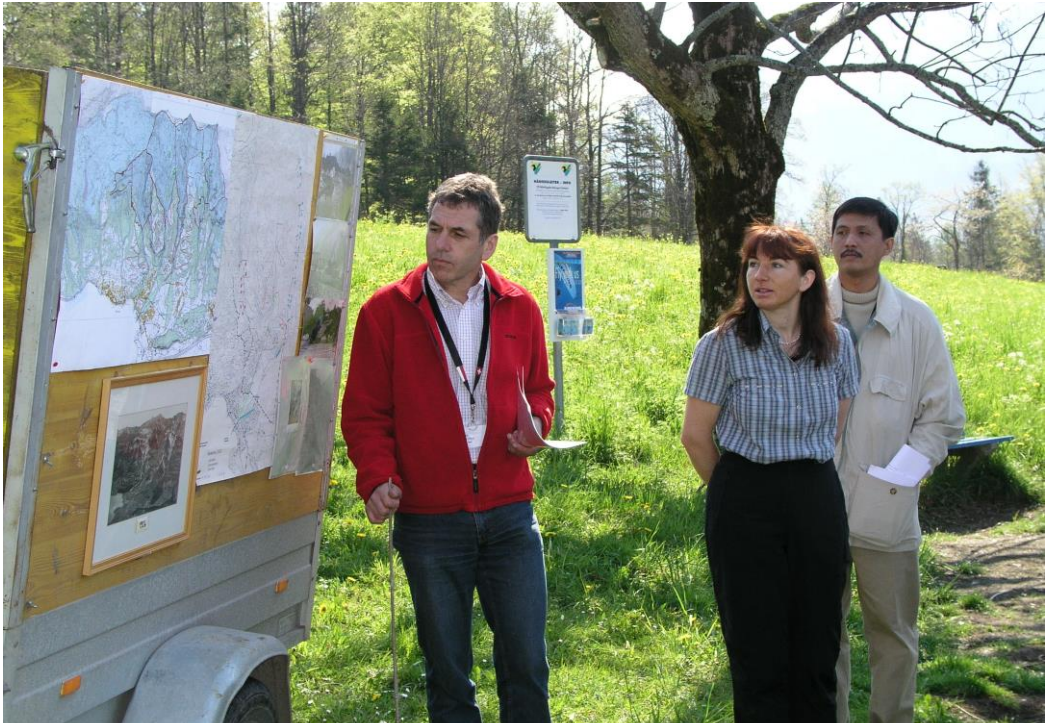
- History of Brienz torrents
- How communal / cantonal and confederation efforts come together to fight natural hazards
- How roles and responsibilities are assigned / agreed to deliver long-term sustained outcomes
- How local political decision-making relates to centralised technical guidance and funding



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## Major issues encountered

- 4 levels of response - balance between local and central input different for each
- Not really about forests per se but about a specific forest function
- Importance of having consistently applied rules and understanding for effective cooperation
- Centralised technical guidance does not have to be an obstacle to local (political) decision-making
- Uncertainty over future - will have implications for downward transfer of tasks



## Conclusions

- Relationship has been successful over 100 years
- Value of having clear and shared sense of purpose that remains constant over time
- Decentralization is not a linear, uni-directional process - adaptation necessary
- Financing / resourcing is a key driver
- Absence of role of private sector involvement - needs to be re-examined in light of federal funding shortfalls

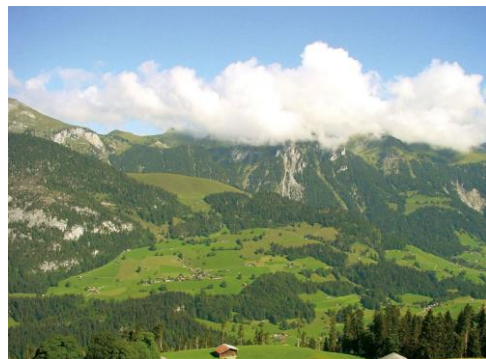


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## Excursion 3:

### Local Forest Organisations in Boltigen

Roles of local community organisations and the cantonal forest service in a remote and mountainous region



Rapporteur: Vinod Bahuguna



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### Excursion 3: Boltigen

- Organization and decision making within the community (transparency, accountability)
- Governance: roles and cooperation of different actors (Divisional Forester, Forest Ranger, local representatives)
- Planning and monitoring instruments of forest management
- Economic situation



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### Main topics of the Excursions to Boltigen

- Management of forests owned by traditional communities
- Roles and responsibilities, duties and rights of member
- Roles of the federal and canton forest department officers



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## Photo 6



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## Major issues encountered

- Economic constraints in the management
- Outbreak of bark beetle
- Future of present forests
- Lack of role for the traditional communities and forest ranger/ DFO in granting hunting permits
- Membership of traditional communities decided by 50 houses with house rights



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## Questions and Conclusions

Q: How to improve the condition of the forest? Role of federal and canton government

C: By and large, a good institution democratically managed. Special efforts essential for improving the structure of forests so that the forest does not disappear or diminish in its present form.

C: Strategy and commitment from government agencies is needed, particularly funding and technical support.



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## Excursion 4:

### Emmental Farm Forests

Resource Management in privately owned forests



Rapporteur: Jill Blockhus



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## Excursion 4: Emmental

- Emerging issues relating to private forest ownership
- Role and responsibilities of the Forest Division 4
- The Emmental forests - small forest plots
- Timber wealth - an undervalued and underused resource
- Regional Management Plans - an approach for the future



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## Main topics of the Excursions to Emmental

Roles and responsibilities concerning private forest ownership

Planning with forest owners and rangers

Role of forest association (marketing group)

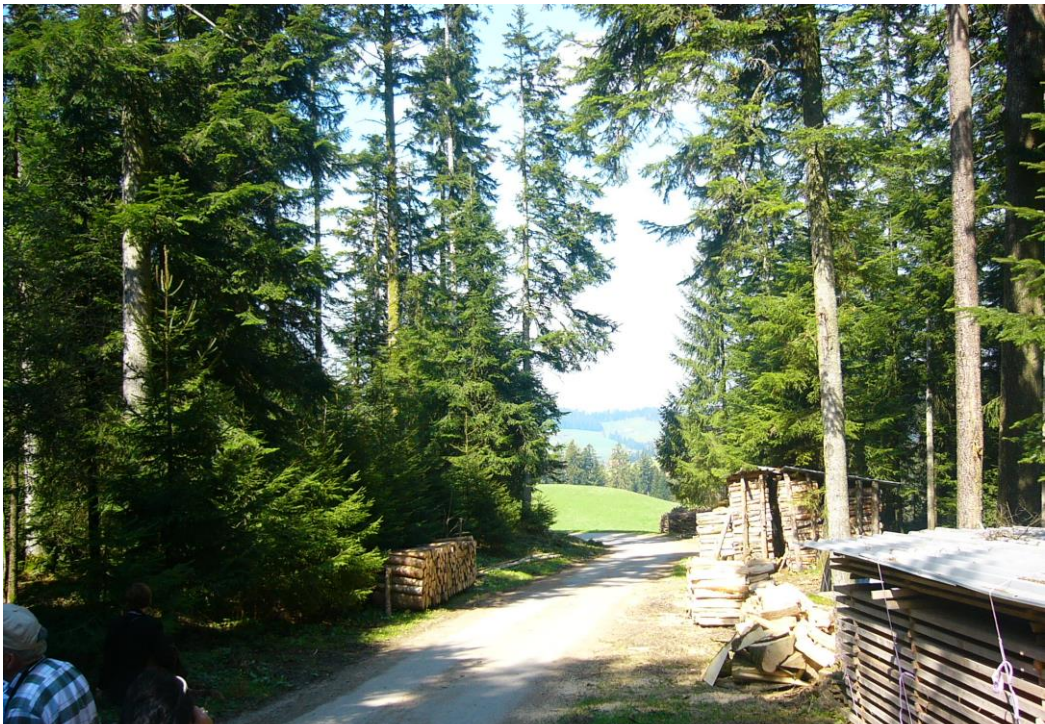
Discussion over wooden bridge



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## Major issues encountered

Economic and social considerations of small forest plots

Relationship between forest owner and ranger

Quality of wood products

Consensus building



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## Conclusions

Decentralization is about working together

Long term relationships over generations

Stable forest service

Recognition of importance of forestry in region



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